



Embolanthus sericeum

EMBOTHRIUM fericeum.

Silky Embothrium.



SPEC. CHAR. E. foliis ternatis integerrimis revolutis
fubtus fericeis, spica recurva, fructu tuberculato
glabro.

Leaves ternate, entire, revolute, silky beneath. Spike
recurved. Fruit tuberculated, not downy.



THIS shrub is said to form a bush four or five feet
in height. Our knowledge of it is entirely from dried
specimens and drawings, for it has not yet been raised
from any seeds brought to Europe. In New South
Wales it should seem to be not uncommon, flowering in
October.

The *root* is perennial, thick and woody. *Stem* very
much branched even from the bottom, round, the

younger branches angular, and clothed with fine filky down, as are likewise the flower-stalks, corollæ, and backs of the leaves. The *leaves* are for the most part ternate, covering the branches without any order, nearly sessile, the uppermost, or those which grow on the weaker branches, being simple. Their form is mostly elliptical, sometimes linear, always tipped with a minute very sharp point, entire, revolute, three-nerved, and veiny, the lateral nerves running in a very peculiar manner very near the margin and along the sharp edge made by its being turned in; upper surface bright green, smooth, and naked. *Stipulæ* none. *Spikes* terminal, solitary, short and dense, recurved, simple. *Flowers* on shortish, alternate, solitary, simple footstalks, all directed upwards, without *bractææ* or *involucra*. *Corolla* rose-coloured, filky without, clothed partly with very dense erect hairs within, and split about half way down into four segments. *Antheræ* small, yellowish, sessile in the hollow tips of the corolla, as in other species of this genus. *Germen* oval, green; *style* smooth, red; *stigma* hemispherical, smooth. *Follicle* oval, black, tuberculated, destitute of hair or down, brown within. *Seeds* two, flattish, attached by a very short wing to the upper end of the follicle.

There are three very remarkable varieties of this species, viz.

α minor. This is its most frequent appearance, and is what we have principally represented in the figure.

β *major*. In all its parts twice as large, and somewhat less silky.

γ *angustifolia*. With very long and linear leaves, and flowers like var. α .

From the most attentive consideration it appears these, however different in appearance and even in the figure of their leaves, are really not specifically distinct.

EXPLANATION OF TAB. IX.

1. A Branch of var. α . 2. A Flower. 3. Half-ripe Fruit. 4. A Seed. 5. Leaves of var. β . 6. Ditto of γ .